

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a relational database from within an object oriented language program comprising:

calling a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

calling a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said proxy object contains references to other proxy objects.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including accessing an entry in said table using said returned column name.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

7. (Original) A method for determining a column name of a table contained in a relational database from within an object-oriented language program, comprising:

calling a method on a proxy object, said proxy object representing the table and said method corresponding to a category of data within the table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said proxy object contains references to other proxy objects.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

12. (Original) A method for creating an object oriented language program which accesses a relational database comprising:

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accessing a relational database from within an object oriented language program comprising:

a method caller, wherein said method caller calls a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

a proxy object method caller coupled to said method caller, wherein said proxy object method caller calls a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

a name returning method caller coupled to said proxy object method caller wherein said name returning method callers calls another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an entry accessor coupled to said name returning method caller.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining a column name of a table contained in a relational database from within an object oriented language program, comprising:

a proxy object method caller, wherein said proxy object method caller calls a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

a name returning method caller coupled to said proxy object method caller wherein said name returning method callers calls another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accessing a relational database from within an object oriented language program comprising:

means for calling a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database; ;

means for calling a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

means for calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said proxy object contains references to other proxy objects.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further including means for accessing an entry in said table using said returned column name.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

25. (Original) An apparatus for determining a column name of a table contained in a relational database from within an object-oriented language program, comprising:

means for calling a method on a proxy object, said proxy object representing the table and said method corresponding to a category of data within the table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

means for calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said proxy object contains references to other column proxy objects.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

30. (Original) An apparatus for creating an object oriented language program which accesses a relational database comprising:

means for entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method, said method returning a proxy object for the relational database;

means for entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

means for entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

means for entering code to the object oriented language program which calls another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the relational database is a structured query language database.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein a provider of the database also provides said proxy object.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein a provider of the database also provides said column proxy object.

34. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for accessing a relational database from within an object oriented language program, the method comprising:

calling a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

calling a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

35. (Original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for determining a column name of a table contained in a relational database from within an object-oriented language program, the method comprising:

calling a method on a proxy object, said proxy object representing the table and said method corresponding to a category of data within the table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

calling another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.

36. (Original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for creating an object oriented language program which accesses a relational database, the method comprising:

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method, said method returning a proxy object representing a table in the relational database;

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls a method on said proxy object, said method corresponding to a category of data within said table and returning a corresponding column proxy object; and

entering code to the object oriented language program which calls another method on said corresponding column proxy object, said another method returning a column name for said corresponding column proxy object.